

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING METERED CAPACITY OF COMPUTER RESOURCES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method provides the capability of metering temporary capacity
5 on demand in a computer system. A resource-time is specified, such as processor-days.
The actual usage of the resource is monitored, and the customer is charged for only the
actual usage of the resource. In this manner a customer may purchase a specified
resource-time, and is only charged for the time that the resource is actually used. The
preferred embodiments extend to metering temporary capacity on demand in a logically
10 partitioned computer system. If a resource is shared, the actual usage of the resource is
monitored, and the customer is only billed for actual usage that exceeds a predetermined
non-zero threshold.